

THE LEGION OF MERIT
(First Oak Leaf Cluster)

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LAWRENCE K. WHITE (O-19241), Colonel, Infantry, United States Army, FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT in the performance of outstanding services from 1 February to 15 April 1944, as Commanding Officer of the 148th Infantry Regiment at Bougainville, Solomon Islands.

With an alert conception of tactical values, Colonel White established an effective system of defensive fires and supervised the construction of installations incident to front-line positions. When the enemy launched attacks on a adjacent regimental sector of defense, he led one of his battalions in a successful counterattack which played an important role in defeating the Japanese and in the annihilation of two enemy battalions. After assaults on the American perimeter were repulsed, Colonel White was placed in command of troops who pursued the Japanese to destroy the retreating hostile forces and their equipment and to gain information of the enemy's capabilities and future plans. The superior manner in which he accomplished this difficult mission reflected the outstanding leadership and tactical judgment which marked his performance of duty throughout the Bougainville operations.

General Orders Number 996

23 June 1944

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW